

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A sealing device adapted to seal a flexible liquid container having a cavity for receiving liquids, formed of two films having the majority of their perimeter fused, allowing an unfused portion of the perimeter to act as a lateral opening for filling the container with liquids, and a liquid dispensing outlet, said sealing device comprising:

a rigid hollow cylinder having an open end and a closed end, said cylinder is provided with an elongated slot extended from the closed end to the open end, wherein said slot meets said open end, wherein said slot is slightly wider than twice the accumulative thickness of said two films;

a rod attached to said ~~close~~closed end, fixedly attached inside and substantially concentric to said rigid hollow cylinder, wherein the distance between the outer diameter of said rod and the inner diameter of said rigid hollow cylinder is slightly larger than the accumulative thickness of said two films so that said two films may be freely threaded between said rod and said rigid hollow cylinder and so that said two films are tightly contiguous;

whereby when a portion of the container provided with the lateral opening is folded while substantially overlapping an adjacent portion of the container, and said rigid hollow cylinder is slidably mounted onto the folded portion of the container while said rod is threaded in the fold between the adjacent portions, liquid is prevented from leaking out of the container through the lateral opening.

2. (currently amended) The sealing device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the length of said sealing device is at least as long as the length of the lateral opening of the container.

3. The sealing device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a cap closes said closed end.

4. The sealing device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said rod is slightly protruding beyond said open end.

5 - 7. (Canceled)

8. The sealing device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein one of said two films has an extension that goes beyond the lateral opening.

9. The sealing device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said extension is provided with a hole.

10. (Currently amended) The sealing device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said flexible container is made of a material selected from a group of materials ~~such as~~ consisting of polyethylene, PVC ~~or and~~ polyurethane.

11. The sealing device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said rod has a round cross section.

12. (Currently amended) The sealing device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said sealing device is made from a rigid polymer, said rigid polymer is selected from a group of materials ~~such consisting of as~~ as ABS ~~or and~~ acetal polypropylene.

13. (Currently amended) A sealing device adapted to seal a flexible liquid container having a cavity for receiving liquids formed of two films having the majority of their perimeter fused, allowing an unfused portion of the perimeter to act as; a lateral opening for filling the container with liquids, and a liquid dispensing outlet, said sealing device comprising:

a rod having a first end and a second end, provided laterally across the flexible container so that a portion of the container adjacent the lateral opening can be folded over the rod and substantially overlap an adjacent portion of the container; and

a sealer comprising an elongated rigid member having two opposite sides along which a hollow passage is extended with a longitudinal slot wherein said slot is slightly wider than twice the accumulative thickness of said two films, wherein the sealer is provided with an opening on at least one of the opposite sides, and wherein said sealer is slidably mountable over said rod, wherein the space defined within the passage is not smaller than the total space occupied by the portion of the container provided with the lateral opening folded over the rod and the rod itself when inserted in the passage, and wherein the slot is not narrower than the total thickness of the folded portion of the container and the adjacent portion when inserted through the slot,

wherein the distance between the outer diameter of said rod and the inner diameter of said elongated rigid member when the rod is inserted inside the elongated rigid member is slightly larger than the accumulative thickness of said two films so that said two films may be freely threaded between said rod and said elongated rigid member and so that said two films are tightly contiguous.

whereby when the portion of the container provided with the lateral opening is folded over the rod, substantially overlapping an adjacent portion of the container and the sealer is slidably mounted over the folded portion of the container and the rod, liquid is prevented from leaking out of the container through the lateral opening.

14. The sealing device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the length of said rod is slightly longer than a length defining the lateral opening of the container.

15. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in Claim 13, ~~wherein the first~~an end of the rod is provided with a resilient lateral protrusion and ~~the second end of the rod is provided with a stopper having a diameter that is larger than a diameter of the passage of said sealer.~~

16. The sealing device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said rod is welded to the flexible container.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The sealing device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said passage has a horse-shoe-like cross-section, and wherein the cross-section is substantially constant along said elongated rigid member and said rod has substantially elliptic cross section.

19. The sealing device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said sealer is made from a rigid polymer, said rigid polymer selected from ABS and acetal polypropylene.

20. (Currently amended) A sealable flexible liquid container comprising:
a flexible liquid container having a cavity for receiving liquids, formed of two films having the majority of their perimeter fused, allowing an unfused portion of the perimeter to act as a lateral opening for filling the container with liquids and for cleaning the container, and a liquid dispensing outlet;
a rod having a first end and a second end, said rod is slightly longer than a length defining the lateral opening; and
a sealer comprising an elongated rigid member having two opposite sides along which a hollow passage is extended with a longitudinal slot wherein said slot is slightly wider than twice the accumulative thickness of said two films, wherein the sealer is provided with an opening on at least one of the opposite sides, and wherein said sealer is slidingly mountable over said rod, wherein the space defined within the passage is not smaller than the total space occupied by a portion of the container provided with the lateral opening folded over the rod and substantially

overlap an adjacent portion of the container, and the rod itself when inserted in the passage, and wherein the slot is not narrower than the total thickness of the folded portion of the container and the adjacent portion when inserted through the slot,

wherein the distance between the outer diameter of said rod and the inner diameter of said elongated rigid member when the rod is inserted inside the elongated rigid member is slightly larger than the accumulative thickness of said two films so that said two films may be freely threaded between said rod and said elongated rigid member and so that said two films are tightly contiguous,

whereby when the portion of the container provided with the lateral opening is folded over the rod, substantially overlapping an adjacent portion of the container and the sealer is slidably mounted over the folded portion of the container and the rod, liquid is prevented from leaking out of the container through the lateral opening.

21. The flexible liquid container as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said rod is provided laterally across the flexible container.

22. The flexible liquid container as claimed in Claim 21, wherein said rod is welded to the flexible container.

23. (Currently amended) The flexible liquid container as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the first end of the rod is provided with a resilient lateral protrusion and the second end of the rod is provided with a stopper having a diameter that is larger than a diameter of the passage of said sealer.

24. (Currently amended) The flexible liquid container as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said rod is provided inside and substantially concentric to said elongated rigid member and is attached to a side of the opposite sides of said elongated rigid member that is closed.

25. (Currently amended) The flexible liquid container as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said rod is slightly protruding out from the opening that is opposite the closed side of said elongated rigid member.

26. The flexible liquid container as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the flexible container is formed from two adjacent films of polymeric material having a majority of their perimeter welded, and wherein the lateral opening is a portion of the perimeter that is not welded.

27. (currently amended) The flexible liquid container as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said passage has a horse-shoe-like cross-section, and wherein the cross-section is substantially constant along said elongated rigid member and wherein said rod has substantially elliptic cross section.

28. The flexible liquid container as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said sealer is made from a rigid polymer, said rigid polymer selected from ABS and acetal polypropylene.

29. The hydration system as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said flexible container is made of a material selected from a group of materials ~~such as~~ consisting of polyethylene, PVC or and polyurethane.